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DAREDEVIL®

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

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My name is Ben Urich...

...and in a year filled with bad days--

--days where I've had to report on the downfall of a good friend...

...nights when I've been manipulated into HELPING with that downfall...

...Mornings of waking up in a cold sweat, Kingpin's eyes staring out of my nightmares at me--

--A year when the bad days FAR outweighed the good...

SHERIFF

...I think this may just be the worst one yet.

--AND SO WE LAY HIM TO REST, AND HOPE HIS SOUL FINDS PEACE.

THE DEVIL IN CELL BLOCK D

PART TWO

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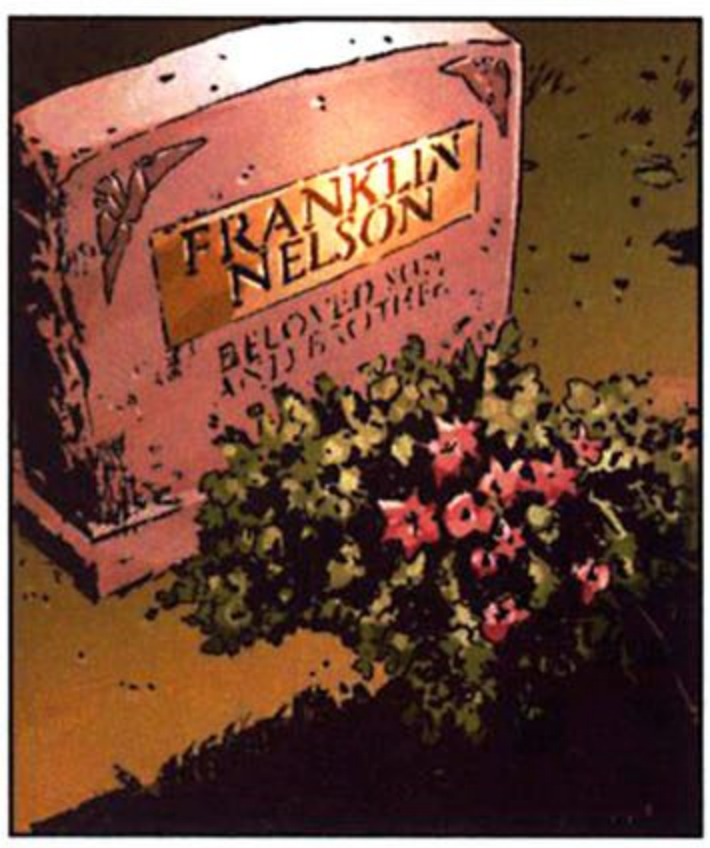

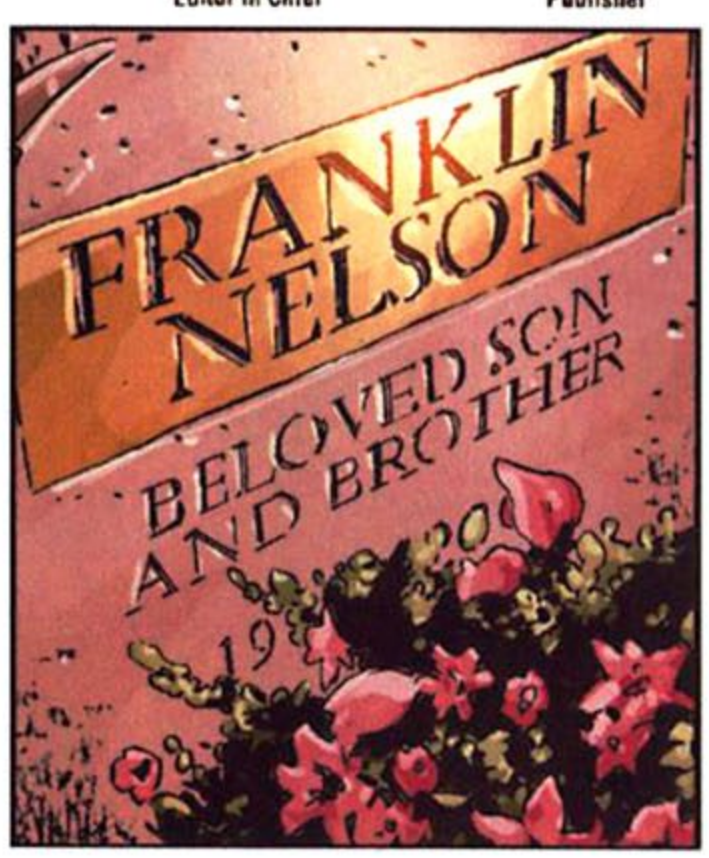

This is what it's come to. Foggy Nelson STABBED to death in Ryker's while visiting his client, Matt Murdock...

...who's being held without bail, pending trial in Federal Court.

The charges? Too many... But at the end of the day, they're about one thing...

That Matt is Daredevil.

He's been dodging that accusation ever since it leaked to the tabloids... but eventually, all houses of cards collapse.

And so this blind man who's had to go through so much in his life...from the murder of his father, Battlin' Jack Murdock...

...To the loss of nearly every woman he's cared for...

...this guy who, through it all, has done nothing but keep fighting for Hell's Kitchen...

...has now had the justice system turned against him.

SHERIFF

And it's cost him everything he had left.

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It's practically an act of mercy that he was allowed to attend the funeral.

HEY, MATT...

MA'AM, *STEP AWAY* FROM THE PRISONER.

I JUST WANT TO GIVE SOME CONDOLENCES TO MY--*HEY!*

STEP BACK!

TELL ME YOU DID *NOT* JUST PUT YOUR *HANDS* ON MY--

NO ONE TALKS TO THE PRISONER.

LUKE, THIS ISN'T HELPING.

While the Sheriff's Deputies are busy with Power Man and Iron Fist, Foggy's mother, Rosalind Sharpe, slips under their radar...

...But not Matt's.

--GOT HIM KILLED, YOU BASTARD!

YOU GOT MY BOY KILLED!

TAKE A STEP *BACK*, MA'AM, *NOW!*

It's uncharacteristic of Ms. Sharpe to show so much emotion. But funerals aren't normal places, and you never know what you'll see.

What I see is a lot of guilt, plenty to go around.

Like Dakota North, the private investigator who was with Foggy during the attack... I see the look in her eyes...

The same one I see in my own every day.

HEY BEN... HOW YOU DOING?

EH... SO-SO, JESS.

NICE SUIT. DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN YOU IN SOMETHING THAT NEW.

YEAH, ME EITHER...NOT SINCE MY WEDDING. BUT, YOU KNOW...

YEAH. I *DO*.

I take one last look at my friend, before he goes back to his cell...

...and I know that whatever guilt any of us feel, whatever anger...

...It's NOTHING compared to what he's going through.

And for the first time in a long, long time, I actually fear for him.

For what this will DO to him.

RYKER'S ISLAND

NO, OF COURSE...WELL, WHAT *MORE* DO YOU WANT *ME* TO DO?

THERE'S AN APB OUT, HIS PHOTO'S ON THE COUNTER AT EVERY AIRPORT AND TRAIN STATION IN THE STATE... HE HASN'T BEEN SPOTTED ALL WEEK.

YOU'RE THE FBI DIRECTOR... IT'S *YOUR* SYSTEM.

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE *CONGRESS* PUT GPS TAGS ON ALL MY GUARDS, IN CASE ONE OF THEM WALKS ANOTHER LAWYER INTO A TRAP?

JERK.

WARDEN COLE?

WHAT?!

OH, YOU'RE YELLING AT *ME* NOW?

SORRY, MARTA. THIS *NELSON* MESS IS CLIMBING UP MY BACK...WHAT IS IT?

YOU WANTED TO KNOW WHEN *MR. MURDOCK* WAS RETURNED TO HIS CELL?

WELL, HE'S *JUST* ARRIVED BACK.

GREAT...

YOU SOUND *DISAPPOINTED.* HOPING HE'D MAKE A RUN FOR IT OUT THERE?

WELL...IT SURE WOULD'VE MADE MY LIFE EASIER...

Solitary.

I barely even notice when they put me back in.

I'm never alone now, anyway...

But I've finally found something to drown out the constant roar of this hellhole...

Foggy's screams.

I hear his last moments over and over in my head.

He was so scared.

They're going to pay for that.

They think they know who I am... But they don't.

Daredevil has always been me held in check.

CHKKK

They've never met the real Matt Murdock.

CHKKK

YOU'RE MAKIN' A MISTAKE, MATTY...

IT DOESN'T MATTER, DAD. NOT ANYMORE.

FAPP

SO YOU'RE JUST GONNA THROW AWAY THE REST'A YOUR LIFE FOR *REVENGE?*

WHAT DO YOU THINK I DID TO THE MEN WHO KILLED YOU?

NO...THIS *AIN'T* HOW YOU WERE RAISED.

APPARENTLY IT *WAS...*

FAPP

YOU HAD ME HITTING THE BOOKS, GETTING MY @$$ BEAT FOR BEING A GEEK, WHILE YOU WERE OUT *BREAKING FINGERS* FOR THE *MOB.*

CAN YOU *IMAGINE* HOW THAT MADE ME FEEL?

NO--THAT'S NOT--YOU'RE TWISTIN' IT ALL AROUND.

I WAS TRYIN' TO RAISE YOU TO BE *BETTER'N* ME.

WELL, I'M NOT.

EVERY PIECE OF ANGER AND BITTERNESS AND *RAGE* YOU EVER FELT INSIDE YOU...

AW, MATTY...

FAPP

EVERYTHING YOU FELT WHEN YOU WERE TAKING PUNCHES IN THE RING...

CHKKK

...WHEN YOU WERE OUT BREAKING *BONES* FOR THE RENT...

FAPP

IT'S ALL IN *ME*, TOO, DAD...

I JUST KEEP IT LOCKED UP REAL TIGHT.

CHKKK

I KEPT IT THAT WAY FOR *YOU*...

YOU'RE GONNA GIVE 'EM JUST WHAT THEY WANT, MATTY... DON'T DO THAT.

BUT NOW, YOU'RE GONE... KAREN'S GONE...

FOGGY'S GONE...

EVERYONE'S *GONE*, DAD.

THERE'S JUST ME...

Me...and whoever's standing outside my cell door. Three heartbeats, one struggling.

I HEAR THAT AT SOME POINT IN THE PAST, YOU LOST YOUR *MIND*, MURDOCK...

SO TELL ME I DID NOT JUST HEAR YOU TALKIN' TO YOURSELF. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE BOOT NEARLY LONG ENOUGH FOR THAT.

Morgan, once the crime lord of all of Harlem, is nearly as powerful here in Ryker's...

OR MAYBE YOU WERE PRACTICIN' YOUR *TESTIMONY* FOR YOUR TRIAL?

I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE MET, FORMALLY. BUT I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHO I AM.

WHAT? I OFFEND YOUR SENSE OF DECORUM?

STANDIN' ON YOUR PORCH WITHOUT PERMISSION, OR SOME OTHER CONVICT *GARBAGE* I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR?

YOU ANSWER MR. MORGAN WHEN HE TALKS TO YOU, BLIND MAN.

I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO SAY TO HIM.

HOW ABOUT YOU JUST LISTEN, THEN? BECAUSE, IT *COST ME* TO GET THIS SPECIAL VISIT...

FINE. TALK.

I CAN FIND OUT WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW.

WHAT'S THAT?

WHO *SHANKED* YOUR FRIEND.

AND I CAN FIND OUT WHERE THE *GUARD* IS WHO HELPED IT ALL GO DOWN.

AND IN EXCHANGE FOR THAT, *WHAT?* I WORK FOR *YOU* IN HERE?

GOT IT ON THE *FIRST* GO. THAT LEGAL MIND OF YOURS IS STILL SHARP, AFTER ALL.

I'LL PASS.

YOU CAN LEAVE NOW.

YOU'LL PASS?

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE UNDERSTANDIN' ME, MURDOCK... I'M OFFERING YOU A *FAVOR.*

AND YOU *DON'T* WANT TO DISRESPECT THAT. NOT IN *HERE.*

CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE, MORGAN...BUT I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP.

I'LL GET THE ANSWERS I WANT MY OWN WAY.

YOU... YOU'RE LIVIN' IN A FANTASY WORLD, MAN... HALF A MIND TO LET MY BOYS SHOW YOU THAT.

MY BEST FRIEND WAS *BURIED* TODAY.

IF YOU *REALLY* WANT TO SEND YOUR MEN INTO THIS CELL, KNOWING THAT...

...THEN PLEASE, GO AHEAD.

ANOTHER TIME, MURDOCK... FOR SURE.

YOU HEARIN' ALL THIS, FISK?

LOOKS LIKE YOUR PAL MURDOCK'S GONNA GIVE THE PEOPLE SOMETHING TO WARM UP WITH...

...WHILE WE ALL WAIT FOR *YOUR* FAT @$$ TO GET BACK TO GEN-POP.

My name is Ben Urich and my boss is a complete jackass.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

DAILY BUGLE

GO COVER IT *YOURSELF*, JONAH.

WELL, I *WOULD* COVER IT MYSELF, URICH...

...IF I WASN'T THE ONE WHO SIGNED THE DAMN *PAYCHECKS* AROUND HERE!

BUT AS LONG AS *YOU* WORK FOR *ME*, YOU'LL REPORT ON THE NEWS I *TELL YOU TO!*

MURDOCK'S HEARING IS TOMORROW, AND YOU *WILL* BE THERE!

JUST SEND KAT OR SOMEBODY... *PLEASE*, JONAH.

I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE... HE'S MY *FRIEND*... AND I CAN'T JUST-- I CAN'T BE *PART* OF THIS...

URICH, I'M GONNA SAY THIS *ONE TIME*...AND THEN I WILL *DENY* I EVER SAID IT.

YOU ARE A *GREAT* REPORTER... MAYBE THE BEST I'VE *EVER* KNOWN.

BUT YOU NEED TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, FIND YOUR *OBJECTIVITY*...

...AND GO DO YOUR %@#-ING *JOB!*

But just because he's an @$$ doesn't mean he isn't at least partly right.

What kind of friend would I be, anyway, if I didn't even show up for Matt?

BECKY BLAKE FOR THE DEFENSE, YOUR HONOR.

IN LIGHT OF MR. NELSON'S DEATH, I'D LIKE A MOMENT TO CONFER WITH MY CLIENT.

MAKE IT FAST, COUNSELOR.

BECKY?

HEY MATT.

YOU'RE A *LAWYER?*

NIGHT SCHOOL. FOGGY DIDN'T MENTION I WAS HELPING ON YOUR CASE?

HE MAY HAVE...IT'S BEEN...WELL--SORRY.

SO, WHAT DO WE DO HERE, MATT? HOW DO YOU WANT ME TO *PLAY THIS?*

JUST LET THEM HAVE THEIR WAY.

BUT...THEY WANT TO PUT YOU IN *GEN-POP.*

YOU'RE BLIND AND EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE *DAREDEVIL.*

YOU'LL BE EATEN ALIVE.

IT DOESN'T *MATTER*, BECKY... I DON'T CARE ABOUT--

MATT, NO...I CAN'T JUST--

MS. BLAKE?

THERE *ARE* OTHER CASES ON MY DOCKET TODAY.

MAY WE *PROCEED?*

WE... UH, I... YES, YOUR HONOR.

And then things get ugly. The Feds have got it in for Matt.

I met the man in charge, and I know for a fact, it's personal.

--AND IT'S CLEAR, YOUR HONOR, THAT THERE IS *NO REASON* FOR THIS MAN TO BE GIVEN SPECIAL TREATMENT.

Some spoiled little bureaucrat with too much power, taking down a real hero, someone who saves lives almost every day. It's pathetic.

...IN THE LIMITED TIME HE'S BEEN HELD IN RYKER'S, THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST *THREE* UNEXPLAINED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE THAT MR. MURDOCK HAS--

We all know the system is broken, but I never realized exactly how badly until now.

...AS DAREDEVIL, SO WE *CAN'T* BE SURE THAT HE ACTUALLY IS BLIND, *REGARDLESS* OF WHAT MEDICAL SCIENCE TELLS US.

MS. BLAKE?

YOUR HONOR, MR. MURDOCK HAS ONLY BEEN *ACCUSED* OF BEING DAREDEVIL. UNTIL HE'S *CONVICTED* OF A CRIME, THAT ACCUSATION *CANNOT* BE USED AGAINST HIM.

BETWEEN THIS MOTION, AND THE WAY THEY'RE DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON SETTING A DATE FOR TRIAL, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH MY CLIENT'S *RIGHTS* ARE BEING STEPPED ON.

MAYBE THE PEOPLE HOPE THAT PUTTING A *BLIND MAN* IN A PRISON WING FULL OF *MURDERERS* WILL SAVE THEM THE TROUBLE OF BRINGING HIM TO TRIAL.

OBJECTION!

Got to give Becky credit, she learned a few things sitting next to Matt back in the day. But the deck is stacked against her.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO ADDRESS YOUR CLIENT'S RIGHT TO A SPEEDY TRIAL. YOUR COMPLAINT MOTION ON THAT IS SET FOR--

They aren't getting any favors in this court...

...*EVIDENCE* THAT MR. MURDOCK CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF IS APPARENTLY FILLING THE *INFIRMARY* BEDS IN RYKER'S ISLAND.

SO I CAN SEE NO REASON TO EXPEND *EXTRA RESOURCES* FOR THIS DEFENDANT.

...and it looks like Matt knew that's how it would be all along.

MOTION GRANTED!

CLAK

As they're carting him away, though, I see something that chills me to the bone.

Matt smiles. Just a little.

Just enough so that I know my worst fears have come to pass...

AW, MATT... NO...

...that they're sending him exactly where he WANTS to be...

...and the bad days, they've only just BEGUN.

WELL, LOOK AT THIS...

...LOOK WHO'S *FINALLY* BUNKIN' WITH THE RIGHTEOUS CONS.

GET TIRED OF ALL THE CHESTERS IN *PC*, OR ARE YOU FINALLY READY TO MAN-UP IN THIS--

YOU JUST WALKED INTO *MY* CELL, LELAND...AND THERE ARE NO CAMERAS OR GUARDS AROUND.

THAT WAS A VERY BAD IDEA.

LIKE I GIVE A--

SMK

--UKK!

KRANG

DAAGHH!

WHAT WERE YOU *THINKING*, LELAND?

KRKK

WHY DO YOU THINK I'M *HERE?*

TO BE PUSHED AROUND BY *NOBODIES* LIKE YOU?

AAAHHHGGH!

"WHO DO YOU THINK *I AM?*"

BAD NEWS, SPEED FREAKS. YOUR CONNECTION ISN'T GOING TO SHOW.

THERE'S JUST ME TONIGHT.

WHAT THE #@$%?!

HOW THE *HELL* THIS #@$%& *FIND US?*

JUST $#@%-IN' CAP 'IM!

KRAKK

AAUUGG!

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, LELAND.

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME *WHO* KILLED FOGGY NELSON...

...AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHO *ORDERED* THE HIT...OR--

--YOU'RE *NOT* WALKING OUT OF HERE!

AAAAHHHHH!

DUUTTT!

WAKK!

I-I DON'T KNOW! I SWEAR!

YOU'RE LYING.

I'M NOT! I'M NOT!

I-I JUST-- I HEARD THAT *SOMETHIN'* WAS GOIN' DOWN. THAT'S--THAT'S ALL.

SOME- SOMEONE WANTED TO-TO SEND YOU A-A *MESSAGE*...

YOU KNOW THE *PROBLEM*, LELAND? I STILL THINK YOU'RE LYING...

...BUT YOUR HEART IS BEATING *SO FAST*, I CAN'T TELL IF I'M *WRONG* OR NOT.

FIVE KILOS OF CRYSTAL METH...

LOOKS LIKE MY SOURCE WAS RIGHT ON--

--TARGET...

OH MAN.

BAR

DAKOTA NORTH?

YEAH?

MY NAME IS BEN URICH, I'M--

A *REPORTER.* NOW TELL ME SOMETHING I *DON'T KNOW.*

ACTUALLY, I'LL TELL YOU *TWO THINGS* YOU DON'T KNOW.

THE GUARD WHO SET YOU AND FOGGY UP LAST WEEK WAS JUST FOUND, VICTIM OF A GANG-STYLE *EXECUTION.*

POLICE WERE LED TO THE BODY ON A TIP FROM *SOME-ONE* CLAIMING TO BE DAREDEVIL.

WHAT'S THE SECOND THING?

LELAND OWLSLEY, THE *OWL,* WAS FOUND IN THE COMMON AREA OF RYKER'S GEN-POP, WITH HIS ARMS AND LEGS BROKEN, AND SEVERAL TEETH MISSING...

DAMN IT... IT'S ALL GOING TO *HELL,* ISN'T IT, URICH?

YEAH, IT IS. THEY USED FOGGY TO PUSH MATT OVER THE EDGE...

THAT'S ON *ME.* I SHOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE HIM...IT WAS JUST SO...AH...

AND THEN IN THE AMBULANCE, I THOUGHT HE'D BE *OKAY,* Y'KNOW... THEY SAID HE WAS STABILIZING...

LISTEN, MATT MURDOCK IS MY FRIEND, AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET KINGPIN OR THE FEDS OR *WHOEVER--* DO THIS TO HIM.

WHY'RE YOU COMING TO *ME* WITH ALL THIS?

BECAUSE I'VE GOT A PLAN.

YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME TRACK DOWN THIS *OTHER* DAREDEVIL...

...AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO *SAVE* MATT MURDOCK.

TO BE CONTINUED...